

Trade pact with Norway

25. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any bilateral trade pact has been signed with Norway recently during the visit of the Norwegian Trade and Industry Minister;
- (b) if so, the details of such a Trade Pact;
- (c) what benefits are expected to accrue to India from this trade pact;
- (d) whether a wider consultation will be held before the Government implements such trade pact; and
- (e) the steps proposed to protect Indian trade interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Reduction of soldiers on J&K border

26. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of soldiers on Jammu-Kashmir border has been reduced;
- (b) whether cross-border terrorist activities by Pakistan have declined; and
- (c) whether Pakistan has also reduced the number of soldiers on its borders and has accepted the Indian Line of Control and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on threat perception.

(b) The logistic infrastructure of the terrorist training camps inside Pakistan still remains intact. The number of successful assessed infiltration from across the border have not declined.

(c) There are no inputs to suggest that Pakistan has reduced troops on its borders. Both the sides have agreed to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control.

Purchase of Israeli missile system

†27. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any plan to buy Israeli missile system to rid Indian Army of apprehensions of air strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of indigenous missile production?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of Air Defence equipment for Indian Army is based on the assessed requirements from time to time. Such procurements are made as per the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedures applicable at the time of procurement.

(c) Prithvi-I and Prithvi-II missiles have been inducted into service. BrahMos missile, developed as a joint venture with Russia, is in production. Other missile programmes are at different stages of development.

Development of Infrastructure for textiles sector

28. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated an ambitious programme to develop infrastructure for the textile sector in the country, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the scheme-wise details thereof alongwith the financial allocation made by Government during the Tenth Plan; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.